

CLAIMS

1. Procedure for the transmission of at least one data stream to at least one terminal, in which said stream or streams are organised in stream units, characterised in that at least some of said stream units
5 include at least one pointer that points to at least one stream unit of said stream or of another stream that may have been received previously in the terminal, called the required previous unit, so that the processing of said stream unit is not performed in said terminal if the
10 required previous unit or units have not been received.

2. Transmission procedure according to claim 1, characterised in that it includes the transmission of at least two data streams that are transmitted independently; one stream unit of a first stream pointing
15 to at least one required previous unit of at least a second stream, in which said stream unit of the first stream includes enrichment data of the data contained in the second stream(s.)

3. Transmission procedure according to claim 2, characterised in that said data streams correspond to
20 different hierarchical levels of hierarchical encoding, the processing of a stream unit of a given hierarchical level is only performed if the stream units of the corresponding lower hierarchical levels have been
25 received.

4. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 2 and 3, characterised in that this stream unit points to

at least one previous unit defining a sequence of required previous units.

5. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that at least one of said pointers allows recovering at least one required previous unit that includes the data allowing the decoding and/or decrypting of the considered stream unit.

6. Transmission procedure according to claim 5, characterised in that said required previous unit or units include data that allows a terminal to decide whether the data of a considered stream unit must be decoded and/or decrypted, and then displayed after decoding.

7. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that at least one of said pointers point to data that can be known by said terminal, so that the latter can decide on its capacity or incapacity to process the corresponding stream unit.

8. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that at least one of said stream units includes at least one pointer pointing to at least one stream unit of said stream or another stream that may be subsequently received.

9. Transmission procedure according to claim 8, characterised in that said stream unit or units that can be subsequently received possess a marker that allows linking with said pointer(s.)

10. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 8 and 9, characterised in that the pointers of at

least two similar stream units transmitted at distinct times point to the same stream unit that can be subsequently received.

11. Transmission procedure according to any of
5 claims 1 to 10, characterised in that it implements an indicator that specifies the role of the pointer(s) from among two of the roles belonging to the groups that include:

- Designation of at least one previous stream unit
10 that must be decoded to allow taking into account the considered stream unit.

- Designation of at least one previous stream unit that includes the data necessary for decoding and/or decrypting the considered stream unit, and/or of a
15 reference to a status of the protection system.

- Designation of at least one subsequent stream unit.

12. Transmission procedure according to claim 11, characterised in that at least some of said stream units
20 include a dependency descriptor, which defines said role.

13. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 12, characterised in that at least some of said stream units include a dependency marker that allows its identification as a required previous unit.

25 14. Transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 13, characterised in that at least some of said stream units include an identification marker of said stream unit in said stream.

15. Transmission procedure according to any of

claims 1 to 14, characterised in that it is implemented at the synchronisation level so that no previous processing of a received stream unit is necessary.

16. Stream of data transmitted according to the
5 transmission procedure of any of claims 1 to 15.

17. Stream of data transmitted to and/or received from at least one terminal, and organised in stream units transmitted independently one from the other, characterised in that at least some of said stream units
10 include at least one pointer that points to at least one stream unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called a required previous unit, so that the processing of said stream unit is not performed in said terminal if the
15 required previous unit has not been received.

18. Server for data designed to be transmitted to at least one terminal, in the form of at least one data stream organised in stream units transmitted independently from each other, characterised in that at
20 least some of said stream units include at least one pointer that points to at least one stream unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called a required previous unit.

25 19. Terminal that can receive at least one data stream organised in stream units transmitted independently from each other, characterised in that at least some of said stream units include at least one pointer that points to at least one stream unit of said

stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called required previous unit.

20. Reception procedure of at least one data stream organised in stream units, transmitted independently from each other, characterised in that at least some of these stream units include at least one pointer that points to at least one stream unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called required previous unit.

21. Reception procedure according to claim 20, characterised in that at least one of said pointers points to at least one stream unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called required previous unit, and in that it includes the following stages:

- analysing said pointer(s) of a stream unit.
- processing said stream unit if the required previous unit or units are received.

22. Use of the transmission procedure according to any of claims 1 to 15 for one of the applications belonging to the group that includes:

- systematic broadcasting of a message before accessing a program selected by the user.
- conditional access at a specific quality level and/or at a specific option of a program.
- interactive television.